

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 11603

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING,
JULY 27, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 275

1. SUMMARY: AT JULY 27 MEETING OF NSS WORKING GROUP, FINCH (US) PROPOSED THAT DELS BEGIN WORKING FROM US DEL ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF MAY 8 ON NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS (NSS) TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DIS-AGREEMENT. TARASOV (USSR) ARGUED FOR EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT FIRST ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NSS. UNDER CONTINUED PRESSURE, TARASOV FINALLY AGREED TO WORK ON TEXT STARTING FROM US DRAFT, SUGGESTING THAT DELS FIRST REVIEW DRAFT TEXT IN LIGHT OF RECENT SOVIET PROPOSALS. HE INDICATED PRIVATELY IN RESPONSE TO FINCH QUERY THAT AT NEXT MEETING OF NSS WORKING GROUP, SOVIET DEL INTENDED TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR PORTIONS OF US DRAFT. END SUMMARY.

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2. FINCH OPENED MEETING BY REVIEWING WORK DONE ON NSS TO DATE. SOVIET DEL HAD SUBMITTED DRAFT TEXT OF ARTICLE ON NSS ON MARCH 15. WE HAD TAKEN THIS DRAFT AND SOVIET VIEWS EXPRESSED IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT WE TABLED ON MAY 8. THERE HAD BEEN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF OUR PROPOSAL EARLIER IN CURRENT ROUND, AND FINCH THOUGHT SOVIET DEL NOW UNDERSTOOD IT.

SOV DEL HAD PUT FORWARD NEW VIEWS ON NSS IN RECENT WEEKS; WE HAD DISCUSSED THEIR PROPOSALS AND HAD GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POSITION. TASK NOW WAS TO FIND BEST WAY TO PROCEED. US DEL HAD GIVEN THIS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND BELIEVED BEST WAY TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS WOULD BE FOR THE THREE DELS TO BEGIN DEALING CONCRETELY WITH TEXT IN ORDER TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. FINCH NOTED THAT SOVIET DEL SEEMED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS IN OUR MAY 8 DRAFT ARTICLE ON NSS, CITING TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT OUR LANGUAGE PROVIDING FOR EXCHANGE OF ALL SEISMIC DATA, OPERATION OF NSS BY NATIONAL PERSONNEL, AND CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF NSS. FAKLEY (UK) SUPPORTED US DEL PROPOSAL.

3. TARASOV (USSR) DESCRIBED US SUGGESTION AS INTERESTING BUT IN ORDER TO PREPARE DRAFT TEXT WE SHOULD FIRST IDENTIFY AREAS OF US/UK AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET PROPOSALS. HE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER US AND UK DELS AGREED WITH BASIC PROVISIONS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SEISMIC VERIFICATION CONTAINED IN SOVDEL PROPOSAL. FINCH RESPONDED BY NOTING AGREEMENT ON SOME POINTS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT ONE THAT ALL DATA FROM NSS WOULD BE EXCHANGED, BUT CITING METHOD OF EXCHANGING DATA AND POSTPONEMENT OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL DETAILS TO JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION (JCC) AS EXAMPLES OF AREAS WHERE DIFFERENCES REMAINED. US DEL COULD OFFER DETAILED COMMENTS ON THESE AND OTHER ELEMENTS

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OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, BUT BELIEVED THAT BEST WAY TO PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH DISCUSSION WAS BY WORKING ON TEXT. FAKLEY (UK) OBSERVED THAT DIFFERENCES REGARDING WHAT SOV DEL CALLED FIRST STAGE WERE MINIMAL, THAT MAJOR ISSUES RELATED TO DETAILS OF THEIR SECOND STAGE AND THESE WERE THE ISSUES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE MOST ATTENTION. TARASOV THEN REPEATED MAIN ELEMENTS OF SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A TWO-STAGE SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE, DESCRIBING THE TRANSITION FROM FIRST TO SECOND STAGE AS INVOLVING THE GRADUAL INSTALLATION OF IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AT SEISMIC STATIONS AND BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF EXCHANGING ALL DATA RECORDED ON MAGNETIC TAPE.

4. FINCH CONTINUED TO PRESS SOV DEL TO BEGIN CONSIDERING TEXT, CHARACTERIZING THIS AS APPROACH STRONGLY FAVORED BY US DEL. TARASOV FINALLY AGREED TO WORK ON TEXT STARTING FROM US DEL ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF MAY 8, PROPOSING THAT ALL THREE DELS SHOULD FIRST RE-EXAMINE THIS TEXT IN LIGHT OF RECENT SOVIET PROPOSALS. IN PRIVATE EXCHANGE AFTER MEETING, TARASOV INDICATED IN RESPONSE TO FINCH QUERY THAT AT NEXT NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING (SET FOR AUGUST 1), SOV DEL INTENDED TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR PORTIONS OF US

DRAFT. JOHNSON

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